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THE BROOKE FAMILY.

By Prof. ST. GEORGE TUCKER BROOKE, Morgantown, W. Va.

(CONTINUED)

BIOGRAPHY OF HON. JAMES VASS BROOKE, BY RICHARD N. BROOKE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

William Brooke, a son of Robert Brooke, Jr., of Farmer's Hall, Essex (the "Horse Shoe Knight"), left by his first marriage with Miss Fontaine, descendant of John de la Fontaine, two orphan children, viz: (2) William and (3) Phœbe. (Essex Co. Will Book, No. 11, page 389.) These children were placed in care of their uncle and guardian, his brother Robert.

William Brooke (2) ran off to sea, became captain of a vessel, and returning, married Mary, daughter of Capt. William Beale, of Chestnut Hill, Richmond county. He settled at "Locust Dale," Rappahannock county, where he had a large landed estate, and left nine children, viz: (4) William, (5) Phœbe, m. McPherson; (6) Robert, d. s.; (7) Fontaine, d. s., (8) Reuben, married Ann Pierce, died 1859; issue: William, Julia, Jeannie, George, all died single; (9) Harriet, m. McPherson; (10) George, m. Winifred Beale; (11) Susan, m. George Beale; (12) Whitfield, m. Sarah Newton; issue: Mary, Caroline, Robert.

William Brooke (4) married Jeannie Morrison, half sister of James Vass, a Scotch merchant of Fredericksburg, and granddaughter of Sir James Cumming, Laird of Sluie, Forres, Scotland. He settled in Falmouth as exporting merchant, and had issue: (13) Isabella Cumming (who married Hon. Samuel Chilton), M. C., (14) Robert, (15) Fontaine, (16) Jane Cumming, (17) William, (18) James Vass.

James Vass Brooke (18) was born at Falmouth, Va., October 10th, 1824. He studied law in the office of Judge R. L. C. Moncure, the afterwards distinguished Chief-Justice of the Virginia Court of Appeals.

Settling in Warrenton, he was licensed to practice law at the early age of nineteen, and married, in 1845, Mary, daughter of Thaddeus Norris, a leading merchant of Warrenton, of which marriage there were six children.

James V. Brooke took an active part as public speaker in support of the Whig party and policies, even before he became a voter. He was a most ardent supporter of Henry Clay, a lock of whose silver hair, sent him in recognition of his support, he always cherished. He was at one time Commonwealth's Attorney for Fauquier, and was State Secretary of the American party. In 1861 he was elected to succeed Capt. J. Q. Marr (the "first blood of the war") as delegate to the Secession Convention, and his name appears as one of the signers of the Ordinance of Secession.

The necessary arranging of matters in which he was fiduciary and guardian for minors prevented his enlistment upon the opening of hos-

tilities; but in March, 1862, he organized, and took to the war, what was known as Brooke's Battery, attached to Poague's Battalion of Artillery, Jackson's Corps.

While stationed that spring at Belle Isle for preparatory drill, Captain Brooke was placed in command of the well known prison camp at that place.

During the Valley Campaign of 1862, while extricating a gun from the mud, his ankle was shattered by the kick of an artillery horse. Nevertheless he rejoined his battery on crutches in time to take an active part in the battle of Fredericksburg. He was acting Colonel of his regiment during the succeeding winter in the absence of Colonel Brown.

By the advice of the surgeons, his wound being dangerous, he withdrew from active service in the spring of 1863, and entered the Virginia House of Delegates, where he served until the fall of Richmond. He took an active part there in the conduct of the war, and was member of the Secret Committee, which advised with the generals in the field.

At the close of the war Mr. Brooke formed a partnership with the Hon. R. Taylor Scott, afterwards Attorney General of Virginia, under the firm name of Brooke & Scott, which partnership lasted for thirty years.

Mr. Brooke practiced for fifty-five years at the Fauquier bar, the longest practice of any lawyer at that bar. He also had an extensive practice in adjoining counties, before the Court of Appeals, and before the Supreme Court of the United States. Before the latter court he represented John Marshall's heirs as senior counsel in the famous Potomac Flats case, pending at the time of his death, and afterwards argued on his brief.

Before a jury he seldom lost a case, and in the Hixon Will case, involving the largest fee, perhaps, ever paid at the Loudoun bar, secured a verdict over the best legal talent the defense could procure in the State.

He canvassed actively for every Democratic nominee for President from 1865 to 1896, when he supported Palmer and Buckner. He served many times in the Virginia Senate and House. In 1877 he was elected to the State Senate as an advocate of an amicable readjustment of the State debt, and offered at that session the first measure, the "Brooke Bill," which passed the Senate but failed in the House. In the ensuing term he was chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and had a leading hand in the extensive revision of the Code of Virginia made at that time.

Mr. Brooke gave freely of his time and talents to the local affairs of Warrenton, serving as Mayor, Recorder and Councilman, and being largely instrumental in the modernization of its pavements, lighting and water supply. His talents, literary, poetical and oratorical, were at the public disposal wherever required. He was open-handed to the poor, and few lawyers have given so much practice without compensation.

He was an active Mason and Knight Templar, was for forty-five years an elder of the Presbyterian church, and many times delegate to its General Assembly. He was for twenty-five years superintendent of the Sunday school, and in the absence of the pastor filled the pulpit for two years acceptably. He was of domestic tastes, yet fond of out of door sports, an ardent angler, fine shot and expert swimmer, and exceedingly fond of little children and domestic pets. He enjoyed a keen sense of humor, which lightened many trials. He passed away at his home in Warrenton October 9th, 1898, at the age of seventy-four, after a brief illness, leaving a name peculiarly honored in the county of his adoption.

Isabella Cumming Brooke (13) married Samuel Chilton, of Warrenton, afterwards member of Congress, and appointed by the State to defend John Brown. Issue: (19) George, d. y.; (20) Marshall, d. s.; (21) William, d. s.; (22) James Vass, d. s.; (23) Jeannie Brooke, married Wm. E. Hurxthal; (24) Charles, d. y.

Issue of James Vass Brooke (18) and Mary Elizabeth Norris:

(25) William Throckmorton, City Engineer, Norfolk, Va., married Mary, daughter of Hon. John Goode.

(26) Richard Norris, artist, of Washington, D. C., unmarried. Former Consul, La Rochelle, France.

(27) Jeannie Morrison, married Charles Edward Fitzhugh Payne, of Warrenton, Va.

(28) James Vass, lawyer, of Cando, North Dakota, married Annabella Bailey, of North Dakota.

(29) Francis Calvert, merchant, of Warrenton, married Lavinia Sims.

(30) Annie Amelia, died young, — 1876.

Issue of William Throckmorton Brooke and Mary (Goode) Brooke: (31) James Vass, (32) Mary, (33) Elizabeth Goode, (34) John Goode, (35) Jeannie Morrison.

Issue of Charles E. F. Payne and Jeannie Morrison Brooke (27): (36) Brooke, Captain U. S. Artillery, married 1st, Grace Kingsbury, issue, Marion Morson, b. 1900; 2nd, Frances Bell; (37) Marion Morson, married Dr. Morton Guthrie Douglas; (38) Mattie Byrne, married Charles Allen Owens, issue, Charles Allen, b. 1907; (39) Charles Edward Fitzhugh, (40) James Keith, (41) Nannie Brooke, married Howell Peebles.

Issue of James Vass Brooke, Jr., (23) and Annabella Brooke: (42) Richard Norris, (43) Jeannie Morrison, (44) James Vass, died young; (45) Francis Calvert.

Issue of Francis Calvert Brooke (29) and Lavinia Brooke: (46) Francis Calvert, lawyer; (47) Newton.

THE LATE MRS. WALKER BROOKE.

"Mrs. Walker Brooke, whose death was chronicled in *The Herald*,

Sunday, was one of the oldest and best beloved of our citizens. Her maiden name was Jane Lewis Eskridge, and she was born at the old family home (Monteagle) near Charlottesville, Virginia, September 30, 1824. She retained vivid recollections of her childhood's home and often spoke interestingly of her visits to Monticello nearby. When she was ten or twelve years of age her father moved to Mississippi and settled at Shongalo (now Vaiden) where in 1840, at the age of sixteen, she was married to Mr. Walker Brooke, a young lawyer of Richmond, Va. The young couple settled in Lexington, Miss., where Mr. Brooke rose to eminence as a lawyer and politician. About 1856 he was elected to the United States Senate to fill the unexpired term of Henry S. Foote. Mr. Brooke filled other important positions and had a host of friends who always delighted to do him honor. He moved to Vicksburg about 1856 and died here in February, 1869. Mrs. Brooke continued to reside here until her death last Saturday morning. She was a woman of bright mind and entertaining speech and had a wonderful faculty of making new friends and holding on to old ones. She retained all of her faculties to the last and took a deep interest in passing events to the day of her death. Her funeral conducted by Rev. J. S. Hillhouse, was held at her late residence on Cherry street, Sunday afternoon and was attended by a large concourse of friends and relatives. She was the eldest in a family of fifteen children and is survived by three sisters and two brothers. She was also the mother of fifteen children, nine of whom passed away many years ago. The six children who survive her are: Mrs. Lucy Mathews, Mr. C. M. Brooke of Kosciusko, Messrs. Horace and Hugh Brooke, Mrs. Jennie James and Miss Mary Brooke. She left also a number of grandchildren and and eleven great grandchildren."—*The Daily Herald, Vicksburg, Miss., October 4, 1904.*

"AN EMINENT MISSISSIPPIAN."

"Among the eminent citizens who have honored Vicksburg in the past with their residences, none are more kindly remembered than Senator Walker Brooke. Senator Brooke was elected to the Senate of the United States to succeed Senator Foote, resigned in 1858. He followed his State at the breaking out of the war and was elected to the Senate of the Confederate States. He also served on the committee which adopted the flag of the Confederacy. His death occurred in Vicksburg in 1869 and was caused by apoplexy. The view of his former residence was taken expressly for this edition. This old building will soon be removed to make room for the new Presbyterian Church on that beautiful corner."—*The Daily Herald, Vicksburg, Miss., 1905.*

"My grandfather (Humphrey Brooke) lived at a place called Oakley in Clarke which was afterwards occupied by Mr. Otway Byrd. He then

moved to a place called the 'Cottage,' where my grandfather died and was buried in the Old Chapel Church Yard. The 'Cottage' was burned down sometime afterwards."—*From a letter from Mrs. Selden S. Wright, San Francisco, Cal.*

"We have on record a deed from John W. Page to Sarah W. Brooke, wife of Humphrey Brooke, for a portion of the estate 'Oakley.' This deed was admitted to record here in 1828 and the property was devised to John W. Page by his brother, Walker Y. Page, whose will is on record here. The portion deeded to Sarah W. Brooke consisted of only a part of the 'Oakley' estate, and the consideration between her and John W. Page was something over three thousand dollars.

PHIL. H. GOLD, Clerk.

Winchester, Va., Jan. 28, 1909.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

THE ROBINSON FAMILY OF MIDDLESEX, &c.

(CONTINUED.)

N. B.—On page 93, for "20 CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON," read "10 CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON." He, as "Christopher, son of Christopher Robinson of C. M. [*i. e.* Co. Middlesex], in Virgin.," matriculated at Oriel College, Oxford, May 21, 1724, aged 19 (*Foster's Oxford Matriculations*).

In Vol. XVI, p. 216, to children of Christopher⁶ Robinson, add Elizabeth, who married Matthew Whiting, Jr. The marriage bond, in Middlesex, is dated March 31, 1763. John Robinson, whose will is printed below refers to her as his sister.

In the *Virginia Gazette* of July 28, 1768, appears the following obituary: "On Monday the 18th instant, died CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON Esq., of *Middlesex*; a man possessed of all those good qualities that perfect humanity. In the character of father, husband, and friend he was excellent; for affection, tenderness and benevolence were the ruling passions of his breast. Few equalled him in virtue, fewer in piety. His time was spent in the uniform practice of doing good. The sick he administered to, the needy he assisted, and the poor he fed. Thus living he was by all esteemed and is now by all lamented."

After the Virginia custom his personal estate was sold after his death and in the same year his executors Richard Corbin and Ralph Wormeley advertised that all of the personal estate of Christopher Robinson, Esq., would be sold on March 6, 1769, at his late dwelling house in Middlesex, and that at Urbanna, on the next day, about 100 Virginia born slaves would be sold.

12. JOHN⁷ ROBINSON (*Christopher*⁶), of Middlesex county, born about